

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 2 has been amended to address the issue raised at the top of page two of the Official Action and now recites that the ratio of the sectional area of the antenna vertical to the axial direction relative to the axially projected area of the cover is substantially equal to or greater than 1/120. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of this application pertains to a vehicle door handle comprising a handle main body fixed to the vehicle door and possessing a housing portion at an opposite side of the vehicle door, an antenna housed in the housing portion so that the antenna axis is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the handle main body, and a metal made cover that covers the housing portion. The metal made cover is arranged to be more distant from the vehicle door than the axis of the antenna.

The Official Action sets forth several rejections of the independent Claim 1 based on the disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 6,768,413 to *Kemmann et al.*, U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0041225 to *Inaba et al.*, U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0063037 to *March et al.* and U.S. Patent No 6,577,228 to *Tsuchida et al.* Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kemmann et al. discloses a vehicle hand lever that includes a base part 44 and a cover 46. A component support 42 and an antenna 33 are positioned between the base part 44 and the cover 46. The component support 42 serves as a support

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for strip conductors on which are arranged as many as possible of the components of the transmission and reception unit 32.

One of the differences between the vehicle door handle at issue here and the disclosure in *Kemmann et al.* is that the antenna 21 as depicted in, for example, Fig. 4 of the present application does not include a component support between the antenna 33 and the cover 46. To more clearly set forth this difference, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the antenna possesses a first surface facing the housing portion and a second surface facing in the opposite direction, with the metal made cover is being arranged relative to the antenna such that the second surface of the antenna is exposed to the metal made cover. In *Kemmann et al.* the second surface of the antenna 33 is not exposed to the cover 46, but rather is exposed to the component support 42.

It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Kemmann et al.*

New independent Claim 7 is also distinguishable over the disclosure in *Kemmann et al.* in that it recites that the metal made cover is positioned adjacent the antenna with an absence of any material between the metal made cover and the antenna.

Tsuchida et al. discloses an antenna 11 positioned between a handle case 88 and a handle case 87. The handle case 87 is more distant from the vehicle door than the axis of the antenna, but the handle case 87 is made of plastic as discussed in lines 34-37 of column 4 of *Tsuchida et al.* Thus, *Tsuchida et al.* does not disclose a metal made cover as claimed.

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In *Inaba et al.*, the resin case 5 lies between the antenna 10 and the metal made door handle 2. Thus, Claim 1 is distinguishable over the disclosure in *Inaba et al.* because *Inaba et al.* does not disclose the claimed arrangement of the handle main body, the antenna and the metal made cover as recited in independent Claim 1 wherein the metal made cover is more distant from the vehicle door than the antenna axis.

Independent Claim 1 is also distinguishable over the disclosure in *March et al.* because *March et al.* describes that the cover 86 is made of resin material and is thus not a metal made cover.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosures in *Inaba et al.*, *Tsuchida et al.* and *March et al.* For similar reasons, new independent Claim 7 is also distinguishable over the disclosures in such documents.

Withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

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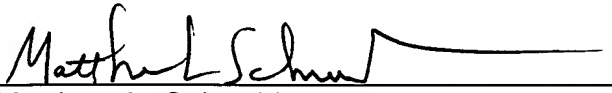
in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned
respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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